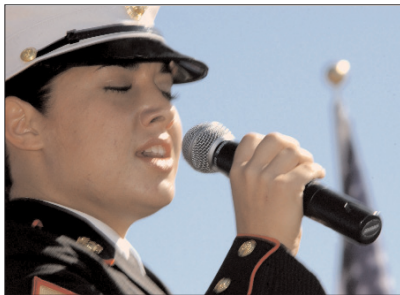


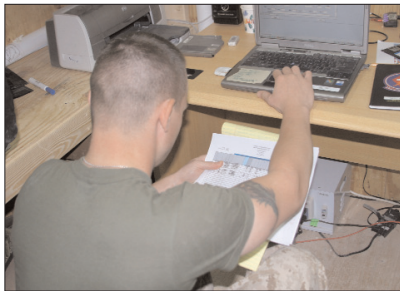
FLIGHT JACKET



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kicks off at SeaWorld
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Heavy Haulers recover Sea Stallion



Silhouetted by the setting sun, Marines keep watch next to a humvee during a mission to recover a disabled CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq, Sept. 8. The helicopter belonging to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), was successfully returned by a Marine Wing Support Squadrons 273 and 274, Marine Wing Support Group 37 (Reinforced), 3rd MAW, recovery team to Al Asad, Iraq, Sept. 9. SEE RELATED STORY, page 8. Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

Marines volunteer at heart walk

Story by Lance Cpl. Frances Goch
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

It's 8:30 on Sept 15 morning and 23 Marines were gathered in San Diego Zoo's parking lot. With their light-hearted conversation and exchange of jokes they seemed like any other group ready for a day at the zoo - with one exception - most of the Marines were in their digital utility uniforms.

They weren't going to the zoo; these Marines were helping the American Heart Association, or AHA, set up their 15th Annual San Diego Heart Walk in Balboa Park. The Heart Walk is the biggest fund raiser of the year for the AHA nation-wide.

The San Diego Heart Walk is the biggest fundraiser in their region, which includes California, Utah and Nevada.

It's geared toward business donations and this year they had 26 different companies participating. The money raised goes towards research and education to prevent heart disease and strokes, the number one and number

three killers in America respectively.

This was the 10th year the reserve Marines with MAG-46 have volunteered to help with the San Diego Heart Walk.

"We really couldn't do this without the Marines," said American Heart Association's San Diego office corporate events logistics director, Rebecca Heath. "They help keep our costs way down. The hours they volunteer aren't man hours they are 'Marine hours,' they get more done than we could ever expect from other groups that volunteer. The amount of work they get done is just fantastic."

Last year, over \$1.2 million was raised from the San Diego Heart Walk and, according to Heath, for every dollar donated in San Diego, \$1.50 is given back to the local community. \$3.3 million went to local research last year alone.

"This was my first year volunteering with the Heart Walk," said Sgt. William Hall, flight equipment technician, VMFA-134. "I never realized how much of a contribution we were until I saw the Marines out here today," he said. "It's mainly the

speed in which we can set up and break down the route and dispense the supplies that provides a lot of help. I usually volunteer as much as I can because I want to do everything I can to help find a cure for these diseases."

The goal for this year's Heart Walk in San Diego was approximately \$1.5 million, but they hope to receive more than 1.6 million with approximately the 10,000 to 11,000 walkers that participated in this year's walk.

While most of the work the Marines did was "behind the scenes," there was a very public part to their job that the walkers are very appreciative of.

The Marines passed out water to the walkers and they were the only ones who provided security on the Heart Walk route. They also conducted traffic control before the walk started to close off the route for the walkers.

"Every year the walkers ask if the Marines will be out, and we are very proud to say the Marines are on the job," Heath said.



Maj. Gen. Samuel T. Helland
Commanding General
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing



Col. Christopher E. O'Connor
Commanding Officer
MCAS Miramar

Maj. Jason A. Johnston
Public Affairs Director

2nd Lt. Armando A. Daviu
Public Affairs Deputy Director

Gunnery Sgt. Matthew L. Sewell
Public Affairs Chief

Sgt. Mandy L. McCammon
Internal Information Chief

Lance Cpl. Taylor Poulin
Editor

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Voting Assistance Officers prep

Story by Lance Cpl. Kaitlyn M. Scarboro

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The Federal Voting Assistance Program wants to encourage and help prepare service members to vote this year during the Absentee Voters Week, October 8-14.

Absentee voting helps Marines play an active role in their city of residence while they are stationed or deployed abroad.

Marines should submit a Federal Post Card Application, which registers them to vote under absentee ballot. The online FPCA is available at the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site www.fvap.gov. The online version must be completed, printed, signed, dated and mailed with proper postage to the local election official before Oct. 6. The regular FPCA can be mailed postage-free when placed in an American mail box.

The 2006-2007 Voting Assistance Guide is the primary source of information for citizens to understand the procedures for registering and voting in their state or territory. With three chapters dedicated to the Federal Voting Assistance Program, Voting Assistance Officers and the Federal Post Card Application, the guide was produced to answer every possible question.

Your legal state of residence for voting purposes is the state or territory where you last resided before leaving the United States or being stationed in another area, even if you

no longer have property or other ties there and you are unsure if you will return.

Military members may vote in the state or territory where they are stationed if they change their legal residence to that state or territory, but there are legal obligations that may apply such as taxation.

For information on candidates, Democrats Abroad and Republicans Abroad have information about the candidates and issues. American embassies and consulates can provide local addresses or phone numbers for the overseas offices.

The Web site for Democrats Abroad is www.democratabroad.org and the site for Republicans Abroad International is www.republicansabroad.org.

Each military unit has a designated Voting Assistance Officer per Marine Corps Order 1742.1A. The MCAS Miramar VAO is Sherry Pender at 577-1767 and the 3rd Marine Air Wing VAO is Capt. Marcos Correa at 577-8711. Voting materials can be found in the Miramar and 3rd MAW adjutant's offices.

Any questions that cannot be answered locally, concerning election dates or candidates, may be referred to the National Voting Information Center. To contact the VIC call commercial 703-588-1343, or military and family members may call DSN 425-1343.

Save time, money with TRICARE

Compiled by
TRICARE Management Activity

Instead of heading to the pharmacy every month to refill your prescriptions, now might be a good time to think about switching to the TRICARE Mail-Order Pharmacy.

Getting medications through the mail is one of the easiest changes you can make to save yourself time and money every month.

"We think the mail order pharmacy is the best way to get medications that you'll be taking for a long time or the rest of your life," said Capt. Thomas J. McGinnis, U.S. Public Health Service, pharmaceutical operations directorate chief. "Getting them delivered to your home is convenient and cost-effective."

When you choose to receive medications through the mail, you can save as much as 66 percent off what you now pay for your prescriptions at a retail pharmacy.

If you take prescription medications

regularly for conditions such as heart disease, high blood pressure or diabetes, and want to avoid the expense of continually filling and refilling them at your local pharmacy, the mail-order option is for you.

For every prescription you fill at a retail pharmacy, you pay a \$3 co-payment for generic medications and \$9 for brand name medications every month.

If you fill those same prescriptions through the mail-order pharmacy, your co-payments remain the same but you receive a 90-day supply for the same price.

A year's supply of a single generic medication costs you \$12 through mail-order instead of \$36 at a retail pharmacy.

Before your next prescription is written, tell your provider you want to use TRICARE's mail-order service to fill your prescriptions.

Ask your provider to write two prescriptions: the first for a one-month sup-

ply to fill immediately at a local pharmacy, and the second—for a maximum 90-day supply—for submission to the mail-order pharmacy.

The first time you use the mail-order option you must fill out the registration form (available by phone or online) and send it in with your prescription to Express Scripts, Inc. (ESI).

Along with your prescription(s) and registration, you must include a \$3 co-payment for generic medications, a \$9 co-payment for brand-name medications or a \$22 co-payment for non-formulary medications for each prescription.

"Signing up for the mail-order pharmacy is easy," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, TRICARE deputy director. "Just fill out one form, mail it in and you're all set. Then you can either mail in your new prescriptions, or have your doctor's office fax them."

Getting your prescriptions refilled is even easier with available online mail and phone options."

Miramarks

What is your favorite part of the air show?



Sgt. Justin Weller
Crash Crewman
H&HS

"I like the unity it brings to us since we spend so much time together during the show."



Sgt. Daniel Brockwell
Crash Crewman
H&HS

"I like the World War II aircraft because of the history they have."

Briefs

Out of the Darkness

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention will be having an “Out of the Darkness” suicide prevention walk Oct. 29 in Balboa Park, San Diego. By walking in you will be raising money for research and education to prevent suicide.

For more information contact, <http://www.outofthedarkness.org>.

Golf tournament

Support Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, by coming out to their Marine Corps Ball Golf Tournament Oct. 2. The golf tournament was designed to raise money for the Marine Corps Ball coming up Nov. 12. The cost will be \$60 for active duty, \$70 for DoD and retirees and \$75 for non-military. Food will be served at the Miramar Officer’s Club at 1 p.m. and there will be prizes for closet to the pin and the longest drive. There are only 72 spots available.

For more information, contact 577-7879.

Marines simulate mass casualty drill

Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Frances Goch

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Voices cry out in pain to anyone for help. The desperation in their voices indicates the urgency of the situation. The flames from one of Miramar’s military aircraft that was “shot down” rise higher towards the sky. Victims are scattered about the crash site, some escape with minor injuries while others aren’t so lucky and are in need of immediate medical care.

Sirens from emergency vehicles are heard approaching as they rush to the scene. Marine and civilian “first-responders” arrive, quickly survey the situation and jump into action.

This is a very real scenario that Marines and civilian emergency response personnel simulated Thursday, Sept. 21. The overall goal of this annual drill is to test the readiness of Marines and civilians to handle an accident with multiple casualties. They exercise current joint crisis response plans and practice coordinating with San Diego County Emergency Services Agencies so in the event that this was not just a drill, everything would move as smoothly as possible.

Although there hasn’t been a real, large-scale accident since the Marines have transitioned to Miramar, a rapid response to emergencies and consistent training from benefits the whole community and the Marines.

“We do a lot of emergency medical



Marines with Aircraft, Rescue and Firefighting, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, extinguish flames from the MAF-T in the mass casualty drill held Sept. 21.

training in the classroom, but it’s just the classroom talk,” says Pfc. Christopher Salvage, crash crewman, Aircraft, Rescue and Firefighting, Headquarters and Headquarter Squadron. “To actually come out here and get your hands on real people gives you a better idea of what it is really like. It is great hands-on training.”

On top of treating victims, crash fire rescue Marines also had to combat the flames from the Mobile Aircraft Fire Trainer, or MAF-T. In this drill, normally called a “live burn,” the MAF-T ignites into flames and

the Marines put their firefighting training in action and extinguish the flames over and over again. They perfect their techniques and strategies and ensure safety for themselves and those around them.

Although the flames were controlled and the injuries were no more than stage make-up and acting on part of sailors and Marines standing-in as casualties, the training in the drills is far from bogus. It is the type of training that greases the gears for the effective response and recovery from major disasters that may someday occur.

Marines kick off SeaWorld festival

Story and photos by Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

SAN DIEGO – SeaWorld’s fifth annual “Sea to Shining Sea” music festival kicked off in San Diego Sept. 18.

The month-long weekend celebration, which ends Oct. 1, will continue to feature displays and performances from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar’s Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting unit, the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, and Miramar Marines singing the national anthem.

Miramar’s K-9 unit performed several demonstrations during the festival’s opening weekend. The Marines have participated in the festival for three consecutive years, and are always a hit amongst the 100,000 visitors who frequent the park throughout the all-American celebration.

“It’s important for the public to see other types of animals here, in addition to the dolphins and whales,” said Sgt. Jeffery Lindstrand, military police working dog handler, MCAS Miramar. “So much of our training is alike and it gives people a better understanding of how our dogs and all of these animals can be trained in similar ways. SeaWorld also gives us a great opportunity to show the public what we do here on a daily basis and it gets the word out about our training.”

Before the K-9’s performance, Cpl. Ethni Valdez, flight equipment technician, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, sang the national anthem to commensurate the celebration.

Valdez, who auditioned aboard the air station, was one of two Marines picked to sing the anthem at the park’s main entrance stage.

“It’s truly an honor to sing at SeaWorld,” said the Chicago native. “After I was done performing several people came up to me to thank me for what I do and to tell me that I did a nice job. It’s an awesome feeling.”

Many of SeaWorld’s visitors weren’t expecting to run into any Marines at the park.

“My family and I have annual passes and we visit here about once a month,” said Jim Hargrove, a San Diego native. “It’s a wonderful surprise to see the Marines here, especially the fire fighters.”

Hargrove was on his way to one of the park’s exhibits, when Miramar’s fire truck caught his son’s attention. Lance Cpl. Wesley Eastis, crew chief, ARFF, MCAS Miramar, and the other Marines working the static display let Hargrove’s son try on their bunker gear and climb into the truck while they answered all of the forming crowd’s questions about their job and life as a Marine.

“I don’t really see this every time I come here,” said 8-year-old Chris Hargrove. “I really liked pretending that I was driving the truck and when the Marine tried on all of the gear really fast. I think that I might want to become a firefighter one day.”

Despite high temperatures, Eastis, a Las Vegas native, fre-

quently walked around the park with all of his bunker gear on, attracting even more interest for ARFF.

“SeaWorld is a great place to promote the Marine Corps,” Eastis said. “There are a lot of tourists here who may not get the chance to see what we do and it’s a blast sharing this experience with them. I especially like watching the kid’s faces when they come up to us. It feels great to give something back to the community.”

The staff at SeaWorld couldn’t be more thrilled to have Marines like Eastis to support the festival.

“The Marines were the icing on the cake,” said Randy Ward, director of entertainment development, SeaWorld San Diego. “The crowds really love military participation and having the Marines here at the festival gives everyone a great opportunity to say thanks. I hope to have them back again next year.”

Active-duty military personnel and active reservists can attend the celebration for free by applying for single-day admission <http://www.herosalute.com>, as part of the park’s annual “Here’s to the Heroes” program.

Additional tickets for up to three direct dependents are also free. This offer can only be used once and expires Dec. 31, 2006.

For more information on the “Here’s to the Heroes” program or the “Sea to Shining Sea” music festival, visit <http://www.SeaWorld.com>.



Lance Cpl. William White, crew chief, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, poses with Jacob, age 3, during SeaWorld’s “Sea to Shining Sea” music festival Sept. 18. The 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Band and Miramar Marines singing the national anthem will be at the festival until Oct. 1.



Lance Cpl. Wesley Eastis, crew chief, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, catches the attention of a family while walking around SeaWorld during the 5th annual “Sea to Shining Sea” music festival Sept. 18. Eastis walked around in the heat, trying to recruit families to visit ARFF’s static display at the festival.

Operations assist ‘Thunderbolts’ mission readiness

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Nikki M. Fleming
3rd MAW Combat Correspondent

AL ASAD, Iraq -- It is important to stay focused on the task at hand while in Iraq. Squadrons carry out plans, missions and any required training every single day. With the help of the squadron’s operations office, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251, Carrier Air Wing One, Carrier Strike Group Twelve, is more organized to better complete its mission.

“The mission of the operations office is to plan the squadron’s daily operations, to train pilots and to conduct ground training,” said Maj. Kevin Massett, operations officer, VMFA-251. “Some of the daily routines of the office are to write the flight schedule,



Lance Cpl. Erik Pye updates the weekly flight data at Al Asad, Iraq, Sept. 14 for the Thunderbolts' pilots conducting combat missions both in Al Asad and from the *USS Enterprise*. Pye is an aviation operations specialist with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251, Carrier Air Wing One, Carrier Strike Group Twelve. Pye is a Boston native. VMFA-251 is originally based at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C.

track flight hours and run the daily flight schedule.”

Every day is used to maintain and attain the squadron’s readiness, whether the squadron’s readiness means having proficient pilots, having required firefighting training prior to embarking or conducting annual physical fitness tests. The management of information is the operation office’s responsibilities, added Massett, a 34-year-old native of Centereach, N.Y.

“The flight schedule is similar to a commanding officer’s plan of the day,” said Sgt. Odaydrian Simmons, aviation operations specialist noncommissioned officer-in-charge, VMFA-251. “The flight schedules are compiled from information obtained from the operation officer’s information log, formations and briefings held that day, or any other events.”

According to Massett, operations officers are in charge of any administrative task, pilot training, coordinating tasks from higher headquarters, ground training and classified material while all organization of information is handled by operations clerks.

“The day crew will come in and catch up on what the night crew had left to input, the missions, the pilot’s flight hours, and which mission each pilot flew,” said Lance Cpl. Erik Pye, aviation operations specialist, VMFA-251.

The operations office consists of Simmons, a 22-year-old native of Myrtle Beach, S.C., and two other Marines. The three Marines complete the many tasks assigned to the section.

“In a small staffed office, it would normally be hard to maintain organized information and complete the job,” said Simmons. “The officers who work in the office are also pilots, which are on a different schedule based on their flight missions, so it is essential our tasks are done right the first time. The office hasn’t had much trouble since the Marines who work alongside of me are hard workers and get everything done in a timely manner.”

While in Iraq, the operations clerks sometimes work up to 20-hour days because

they stay until the final jet lands for the day, which can be as late as 4 a.m. the next morning.

“Compared to the hours on the carrier, they are not much different,” said Pye, a 24-year-old Boston native. “There are days where the workload is a little heavier than others.”

Massett added that he has a lot of good officers and enlisted Marines to handle all the department is responsible for, and they juggle more information than he could ever handle on his own.

“Everything with our job is based on consistency and making sure everything is in order for the squadron to run smoothly,” said Simmons.

According to Pye, the operations office in a squadron is important because it keeps

track of all the pilots’ hours, their qualifications, when they need to re-qualify, the hours each jet flies and how the squadron is working as a whole.

“We really plan and coordinate both the daily routine of the squadron and plan future operations, both tactical operations and routine operations,” said Massett. “Just about every unit has an operations department since it is vital to any unit’s success.”

During the Thunderbolts’ deployment in Iraq, the operations office coordinates with CAW-1 operations, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) operations, and the Combined Air Operations Center.

“I don’t think the success rate in the office could be any better,” said Pye. “With all that needs to be done, we come together as a team and finish the task. Mission complete!”



Cpl. Joshua Kline assists Lance Cpl. Ignacio Rodriguez backing in a tractor, in Al Asad, Iraq, Sept. 19. Kline and Rodriguez are clearing the area to prepare the squadron for the day’s operations. Kline is an F/A-18 aircraft communications/navigation/weapons system technician with Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 251, Carrier Air Wing One, Carrier Strike Group 12.

HMH-462 lifts load to support 11th Marines

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Marines from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462, “Heavy Haulers”, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, delivered conex boxes full of communications equipment to Marines training at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms, Calif., Sept. 19.

The “Haulers” flew to 29 Palms to support training for the 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, who are preparing to deploy with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Miramar’s crew moved conex boxes – steel containers capable of holding military supplies – full of communications equipment to the Marines staged at hilltop locations.

The communications Marines were supporting the Headquarters Battery, 11th Marines’ artillery units in the desert and were setting re-transfer signals, which are communications links between the ground units.

Their mission was to transfer signals from the artillery units within the battery to ensure they are firing in accurate locations, explained Sgt. Robert Phillips, a multi-equipment operator, 11th Marines. The Marines worked from mountain tops to stay out of the artillery gun fire.

see **HAULER**,
 page 7



The helicopter support team from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton runs under a CH-53E Super Stallion Sept. 19. One helicopter from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing flew to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms, Calif., to support a training mission.



A Helicopter Support Team from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton removes the static electricity from the aircraft’s hook Sept. 19. Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing supported training at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms, Calif., to support the 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division during a two week training evolution before deploying with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

HAULER,
continued from page 6

“We are looking forward to the end of the training evolution,” Philips said. “It should be a great show when the artillery Marines shoot off all of their rounds.”

The “Haulers” used the single-point lifting system, with a large hook hanging under the helicopter, to carry the conex boxes from the landing zone to the drop site.

Normally when the CH-53E Super Stallion practices lifting, they lift a selected load in a circular pattern, explained Capt. Justin Reetz, pilot, HMH-462. This time the Marines participated in a field exercise.

“It is more realistic doing field train-

ing and it helps when working with outside agencies just like we would in a combat zone,” Reetz said.

Along HMH-462’s pilots and crew, a ground team from Combat Logistics Brigade 13, 1st Marine Logistics Group, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton participated in the training.

“It was our job to help in the insertion of the conex boxes,” said Sgt. Nemir Meade, helicopter support team member, CLB-13. “We helped out by loading the boxes onto the single point lifting system of the CH-53E Super Stallion.”

As the day went on the “Heavy Haulers” moved two conex boxes for the communications Marines and helped the 11th Marines continue their training due to quality air support.



The point man is the Marine who directs the pilots of a helicopter to the proper loading area – directs pilots from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Sept. 19. The CH-53E Super Stallion from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar flew to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms, Calif., to support a training mission.



A crew chief with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, open and closes the dual point hook under the aircraft with his boot on a CH-53E Super Stallion to ensure the hook functions properly Sept. 19. The crew flew to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms, Calif., to support the 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division.

Recovery mission successful in Al Anbar

Story and photo by
Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

3rd MAW Combat Correspondent

Marines and sailors with Marine Wing Support Squadrons 273 and 274, Marine Wing Support Group 37 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), successfully recovered a disabled CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter from a hard landing location in the Al Anbar province of Iraq, Sept. 9.

The helicopter belonging to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd MAW (Forward), was disabled in a hard landing Sept. 7, and within a few hours, the mission to recover it was planned.

Having been in Iraq just weeks, the Marines and sailors with MWSS-273 were assigned the unprecedented job of recovering the massive helicopter and transporting it back to Al Asad.

"I've been here two weeks and never expected this," said Seaman Dominic K. Christofek, a corpsman with MWSS-273 and Cleveland native. "I was excited to be going outside the wire to do something great like recovering a helicopter. You don't hear about that happening too much."

Leaving Al Asad Sept. 8 in a convoy of more than a dozen vehicles, the Sweathogs began their long, hot drive to the landing zone.

Two things were a constant for the Marines and sailors during the haul across the Iraqi desert -- hydration and a watchful eye for possible threats.

Despite traveling roads littered with signs of previously blown IEDs, the convoy reached a rally point near the helicopter's location without incident.

Upon arrival, the support squadrons set up a protective perimeter, and as the sun slowly fell, turning the western sky a bright orange, a team of Marines moved to the helicopter to assess how they



A disabled CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter sits on top of an oversized trailer during the mission to recover the aircraft in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq, Sept. 9. The helicopter belonging to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463, Marine Aircraft Group 16 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), was successfully returned by a Marine Wing Support Squadrons 273 and 274, Marine Wing Support Group 37 (Reinforced), 3rd MAW, recovery team to Al Asad, Sept. 9 after it made a hard landing in Western Iraq, Sept. 7.

would bring it back.

Throughout the night, as the perimeter Marines swept the surrounding landscape for threats, the assessment team cut the main rotor blades and tail from the massive aircraft before using a crane to place it atop an oversized trailer for transport.

With the 24,000 pound, 73 foot-long helicopter dwarfing the vehicle carrying it, the convoy set off to return to Al Asad.

Less than 36 hours after departing on a mission never performed before, the jubilant Marines and sailors returned to their squadron compound having written themselves into the Marine Corps training manual on how to recover a disabled

helicopter by land.

"The recovery effort was successful largely in part to the staff (non-commissioned officers) and sergeants who were on the mission," said Col. Michael G. Dana, commanding officer, MWSG-37,

and Oneida, N.Y., native. "Their experience and knowledge was instrumental to the safe recovery of the aircraft. Due to their efforts, we were able to bring the aircraft back to base with no impact on the local population"

Falcons fly high in league with win, 14-13

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Taylor Poulin
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Falcons defeated the Marine Aircraft Group 39 Mad Dawgs in a grudge match football game Sept. 26 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

The Falcons and the Mad Dawgs were tied for first at two wins and no losses.

“Coming into the game we knew we could run the ball,” said Bennis Branch, Falcons’ head coach. “But we started off slow and they were killing us with their linebackers.”

The first half started out slow for the Falcons. The Mad Dawgs struck first in the closing seconds of the second quarter with a run up the middle.

Going into halftime and with all the momentum on the Mad Dawgs’ hands the Falcons looked for a new strategy.

“We started the game having our quarterback call all the plays to give him a good feel for the defenses he was facing,” Branch said. “That wasn’t so working I talked to my offensive line and they were telling me what was working and what wasn’t, so I went with that instead.”

The opening drive of the second half showed the offensive line’s plays were right.

With runs by running backs Brentt Bean, Cordero Davis and Tim Craig, the Falcons pushed into the Mad Dawgs’ red zone in a hurry. Quarterback Jaime Sales capped off the drive with a 15-yard run to the end

zone, 7-7.

Jeremy Bacon knocked on two more points with a 2-point conversion toss play running over the Mad Dawgs’ left side.

A block in the back penalty was called on the kickoff and a pass interference call gave the Mad Dawgs good field position, turning the tables on the Falcons.

Despite the two infractions by the Falcons, the Mad Dawgs turned over the ball on a fourth down.

The Falcons’ running backs took over

from there. Combinations of runs by Bean, Davis, Bacon, and Craig moved the Falcons deeper into Mad Dawg territory again. Bacon finished it off with a 10-yard run between the tackles. The 2-point conversion failed, and the score remained 14-7, Falcons.

The Mad Dawgs were driving hard down the field at the beginning of the fourth quarter. On a crucial fourth-and-one, the Mad Dawgs pulled out a first down with an unsportsmanlike conduct call on the Falcons. On the continuing drive, the Mad

Dawgs gave the Falcons a scare with a boot-leg pass to the weakside tight end but could not complete the pass for the score. On the next play, Falcons’ cornerback Breenan McIntyre was waiting for the same play and this time he got it. He intercepted the ball deep in the end zone and brought it out to the 20-yard line.

Quarterback, Sales went to work from here by marching his offense down the field, draining the clock and stopping the Mad Dawgs’ hopes of evening the score.

Refusing to lay down, a Mad Dawg defensive back reached up in the air and snatched one of Sales’ passes. From their own 40-yard line, the Mad Dawgs had another chance to drive.

Driving down the field using their big receivers, the Falcons had trouble stopping them. The Mad Dawgs moved down the field as the clock ticked away. They finally reached the Falcons’ five-yard line and scored on a fade pattern to the left side.

With the score 14-13, Falcons, the Mad Dawgs had one chance on a 2-point conversion to top the Falcons and hold onto the lead by one point.

Davis, now in at cornerback, anticipated a comeback route the Mad Dawg receiver and knocked it down.

The onside kick attempt was recovered by Falcons’ safety Mike Olsen and two kneels later, it was in the books.

“We played very hard and with out a running back and our defensive captain,” said Branch. “We now lead the league and we look forward to the rest of the season.”



Falcons fullback Tim Craig (44) and running back Jeremy Bacon (8) sweep the left side smashing into the Mad Dawg defense during a football game at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Sept. 26. Bacon had one touchdown in the game and was a big contributor to the Falcons’ running game.

AROUND THE CORPS



CAMP DAWSON, W. Va. - Sergeant Rodricus L. Goines, section chief, K Battery, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, prepares a cable ladder fixed lane on the side of a 45-foot cliff near Greer Stone Quarry, W. Va., Sept. 16, during the Rough Terrain Familiarization Course. Using fixed lanes, a trained group of Marine climbers can quickly move a large force up or down a vertical surface. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jeremy T. Ross

Above CAMP TAQADDUM, Iraq - A Marine with Combat Logistics Regiment-15, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) pays his final respects to fallen comrade Pfc. Vincent M. Frassetto, a fire-direction controlman with Military Police Company, CLR-15. Frassetto was fatally wounded by an improvised explosive device attack while on a vehicle patrol to Al Asad, Iraq. Photo by Lance Cpl. Ryan B. Busse



Right KIN BLUE, Okinawa - Scout swimmer Cpl. Beau Bauer emerges off Kin Blue beach during a boat raid exercise Sept. 11. More than 100 Marines and sailors with A Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, currently serving as the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's battalion landing team, rehearsed boat raids during the MEU's current pre-deployment training cycle. The scout swimmer's mission during boat raids is to clear obstacles and eliminate enemy threats before the assault. Photo by Lance Cpl. Bryan A. Peterson



Is this your Talon?

The above vehicle has been marked for impound by the Provost Marshal’s Office. To avoid having the vehicle towed, please store it in the Marine Corps Community Services or Traffic Management Office lots. Abandoned vehicles at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar present security risks as well as enviromental and safety concerns. PMS attempts to identify and contact vehicle owners of illegally parked, abandoned vehicles prior to tagging the vehicle with a Department of Defense notice. Vehicles are then scheduled for towing three days following the notice. For more information, call 577-1276/4139.

The following vehicles have been impounded and need to be claimed by the owners. Towing fees average \$113, storage fees \$28 daily. For more information call 577-1461.

Vehicle:	License:
Mitsubishi Eclipse	CA#5DAX061
Honda CX	CA#5ERW727
Suzuki GSXR	CA#17E7224
Ford E350	CA#4LNX778
Motorcycle Trailor	VA#CT497383

Miramar Movies

The Bob Hope Theater is located in Building 2242, and will be featuring the following movies. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information, call 577-4143 or log on to *www.mccsmiramar.com*.

Friday:
6:30 p.m. The Shaggy Dog (PG)
9:00 p.m. *Ultraviolet (PG-13)

Saturday:
6:30 p.m. Aquamarine (PG-13)
9:00 p.m. Failure to Launch (PG-13)

Sunday:
1:00 p.m. Failure to Launch (PG-13)
6:30 p.m. *Madea’s Family Reunion (PG-13)

Wednesday:
6:30 p.m. V For Vendetta (R)

Thursday:
2:00 p.m. The Shaggy Dog (PG)
6:30 p.m. The Hills Have Eyes (R)

* Indicates the last showing for that film.

Prescribed Burn

The Marine Corps Air Station will be having a prescribed burn Saturday in preparation for the air show. Drift smoke will be visible from the vicinity of the station’s airfield but, the wind should clear the smoke in a timely manner.

For more information, contact 577-6137.

Religious Services

The Chaplain’s Office is located in Building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain’s Office at 577-1333.

Sunday:
9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist
Wednesday:
7 p.m. Baptist service
Monday-Friday:
11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic daily mass
Jewish:
7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

Pro-Am Golf Tourney

The Century Club of San Diego is hosting six Marines in the San Diego Area to play in the Buick Invitational Pro-Am on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007 and the Torrey Pines North Golf Course. In order to qualify to play in the Pro-Am, players must make the cut at the qualifying tournament at Miramar on December 1, 2006. The top six net scores will qualify to play in the Pro-Am. Interested players must have a valid handicap of 21 or less and register no later than Nov. 22.

For more information, contact the Miramar Pro Shop at 577-4155.

Support The Troops

The Blood Donor Center San Diego. will be having a blood drive to support our troops in the Miramar Exchange parking lot Oct. 4, from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Special limited edition pint glasses will be given to all donors.

For more information, contact Doreen Rekoski at 619-532-6653.